

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1-2 and 4-6 as follows:

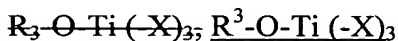
1. (Currently Amended) ~~An aldehyde resin binder for a~~ A fiber reinforced antifouling paint or paint base, comprising:

a) 2 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of aldehyde resin of an aluminium di-secalkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) represented by the following formula (I) :



wherein $[[\text{R}_1]]$ R^1 represents a secalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group; and $[[\text{R}_2]]$ R^2 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group; and

b) 0.5 to 8 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of aldehyde resin of a monoalkoxy organotitanate-IV (Component B) represented by the following formula (II):



wherein $[[\text{R}_3]]$ R^3 is a monovalent organic group having from 2 to 30 carbon atoms or a substituted derivative thereof; X ~~in the above formula~~ independently represents an acylate group, a sulfonic acid residue, a phosphoric acid residue or a pyrophosphoric ester residue, or a mixture thereof, and

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base ~~composition~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~aldehyde resin binder~~ fiber reinforced antifouling paint or paint base of claim 1, wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component A is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base ~~composition~~.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A process for providing a high-build marine antifouling paint or paint base characterized by a fiber-reinforced aldehyde resin as binder and containing

metalliferous pigments which are sparingly soluble in seawater which comprises the steps of :

(a) adding aluminium di-secalkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) and thereafter

(b) adding monoalkoxy organo-titanate-IV (Component B) to said aldehyde resin to provide a paint or paint base, said Component A being present in an amount of between about 0.4 % and about 4%, and said Component B being present in an amount of between about 0.2 % and about 2%, the total amount of said Component A and said Component B being between about 0.5 % and about 5% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base,

wherein said Component A is represented by the following formula (I) : $(R^1O)_2-Al-(CH_3-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R^2)$

wherein R^1 represents a sec alkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group; and R^2 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group,

and said Component B is represented by the following formula (II) : $R^3-O-Ti(-X)_3$

wherein R^3 is a monovalent organic group having from 2 to 30 carbon atoms or a substituted derivative thereof; X independently represents an acylate group, a sulfonic acid residue, a phosphoric acid residue or a pyrophosphoric ester residue, or a mixture thereof, and

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for providing a high-build marine antifouling paint or paint base characterized by a fiber-reinforced aldehyde resin as binder and containing metalliferous pigments which are sparingly soluble in seawater which comprises the steps of :

(a) adding aluminium di-secalkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) and

(b) adding monoalkoxy organo-titanate-IV (Component B) to said aldehyde resin to provide a paint or paint base, said additive Component A being present in an

amount of between about 0.4 % and about 4%, and said Component B being present in an amount of between about 0.2 % and about 2%, the total amount of said Component A and said Component B being between about 0.5 % and about 5% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base,

wherein said Component A is represented by the following formula (I) : $(R_1O)_2-Al-(CH_3-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R_2)(R^1O)_2-Al-(CH_3-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R^2)$

wherein R^1 represents a sec alkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group; and R^2 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group, and

said Component B is represented by the following formula (II) : $R_3-O-Ti(-X)_3$, $R^3-O-Ti(-X)_3$

wherein R^3 is a monovalent organic group having from 2 to 30 carbon atoms or a substituted derivative thereof; X independently represents an acylate group, a sulfonic acid residue, a phosphoric acid residue or a pyrophosphoric ester residue, or a mixture thereof,

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition, and

wherein steps (a) and (b) are carried out simultaneously.

6. ~~(Currently Amended) An antifouling coating composition~~ A fiber reinforced antifouling paint or paint base, comprising a binder containing metalliferous pigments which are sparingly soluble in seawater formed by a process which comprises the steps of adding said aluminium di-sec-alkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) and thereafter adding said monoalkoxy organo-titanate-IV (Component B) to said aldehyde resin to provide a paint or paint base, said Component A being present in an amount of between about 0.4 % and about 4%, and said Component B being present in an amount of between about 0.2 % and about 2%, the total amount of said Component A and said Component B being between about 0.5 % and about 5% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base and, one or more auxiliary additive selected from the group consisting of pigments, antissettling agents, plasticizers, solvents, biocides, fibers, stabilizers and film consumption regulators,

wherein said Component A is represented by the following formula (I) : $(R^1O)_2-Al-(CH_2-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R^2)$ wherein R^1 represents a sec alkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group; and R^2 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group,

and said Component B is represented by the following formula (II) : $R^3-O-Ti(-X)_3$ wherein R^3 is a monovalent organic group having from 2 to 30 carbon atoms or a substituted derivative thereof; X independently represents an acylate group, a sulfonic acid residue, a phosphoric acid residue or a pyrophosphoric ester residue, or a mixture thereof, and

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition.